

Chris O'Brien

From: Justin Martino-Harms <justin@concentricpsychology.com>
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 11:46 AM
To: House Finance Committee
Subject: House budget and police funding

Hi,

I am a resident of Lincoln, RI and a business owner in Providence.

I strongly believe that spending \$35,000,000 on new police barracks as part of the state budget is a critical mistake. Our school systems and social support systems are in dire need of funding right now, and it makes no sense to spend \$35M on police barracks at this moment in time.

I am a psychologist, and I see the impact that a lack of mental health supports, and lack of emergency response resources for mental health have on our communities. A much more intelligent use of the \$35M would be to invest in police alternatives to all of the social services work the police do, and therefore help our communities, and decrease the burden that is placed on police to respond to community needs that they are not trained, or prepared to respond to.

Best,

Justin W. Martino-Harms, Psy.D.
Licensed Psychologist
Pronouns: they/them or he/him

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